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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Donie, Frederic *et al.*

Serial No: 09/423,863

Filed: February 8, 2000

For: PROCESS FOR THE DETECTION OF HIV
ANTIBODIES AND ANTIGENS USED IN IT

Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: Brett Nelson

*#14
Amel. B
10/5/01
a***AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR §1.111**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

September 27, 2001

Dear Sir:

This reply is in response to the Office Action dated March 28, 2001 which has a shortened statutory period for response of three months that expired June 28, 2001. A petition for a 3-month extension of time until September 28, 2001 is enclosed herewith.

AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified patent application as shown below.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 15, 18, 20-22, 24, 26-28, and 31-33 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 16, 17, 19, 23, 25, 29 and 30 as follows:

16. (amended) An immunoassay method for detection of an antibody against HIV comprising: